Proposal for setting up of Air Station at Amravati in Maharashtra

87. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the policy regarding setting up of All India Radio Stations rn States;

(b) whether a proposal regarding setting up of All India Radio Station at Amravati in Maharashtra is under consideration; and

(c) if so, the progress made in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) Prasar Bharati's policy to set up Radio Stations in States includes consideration of factors like provision of coverage in hitherto uncovered areas, provision of coverage in hilly, tribal and border areas, linguistic and cultural needs, availability of infrastructure facilities, availability of resources, *inter se* priority, etc.

(b) and (c) A Local Radio Station, with 10 KW FM Transmitter at Amravati was proposed in Ninth Plan. However, due to constraint of funds, this scheme including many others, had to be deferred.

Mafia's Hold on Film Industry

†88. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that mafia's hold on film industry in the country is increasing;

(b) if so, whether Government are considering to take any concrete step to save this industry from mafia's clutch;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

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†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (d) "Police" and "Public Order" are State subject as per the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India and, as such, registration, investigation, detection and prevention of crimes is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments.

However, in order to facilitate a greater flow of institutional finance to the film incustry, Notification dated 16.10.2000 was issued by the Department of Economic Affairs (Banking Division), Ministry of Finance, where under the "Entertainment Industry including films" has been specified as an approved activity under "Industrial Concern" in exercise of powers conferred by Section 2(c) (xvii) of the IDBI Act. The Industrial Development Bank of India has evolved guidelines to enable banks and financial institutions to fund proposals for financing of film production.

Screening of obscene Films

†89. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that screening of obscene films and obscene exposure of women is rampant in cinema halls;

(b) if so, whether Government are considering to take any step to check it;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (d) The guidelines for certification of films, issued under section 5B of the Cinematograph Act, 1952, already discourage presentation of scenes degrading or denigrating women in any manner, scenes involving sexual violence against women like attempt to rape or molestation etc. in films. Some of the steps taken to ensure strict compliance of these guidelines are:

(i) Provision of 50% of the members of the Examining and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.